

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for receiving audio signals from a plurality of microphones and transferring said audio signals via a common composite signal channel to a receiving unit, ~~such as a mixing console~~, said system comprising:

at least two satellite units, each having a microphone signal input, a composite signal channel input, and summing means for summing a microphone signal and a composite signal; and

a master unit having a composite signal channel input, and signal converting means for converting ~~said~~ a composite signal into a master signal, which is provided to the receiving unit via a master signal output; wherein

each satellite unit is connected to said common composite signal channel, such that the microphone signal received at the respective satellite unit, is added to said composite signal, which is fed to the master unit.

2. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said satellite units comprises a composite signal channel input and a composite signal channel output, and wherein

the composite signal output of a first satellite unit is connected to the composite signal channel input of the master unit;

the composite signal output of a second satellite unit is connected to the composite signal input of the first satellite unit; and

signals received at the composite signal input and at the microphone signal input of the respective satellite unit are added by the respective summing means and provided at the composite signal output.

3. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said satellite units has one composite signal channel connector, which via a T-connector is connected to said common composite signal channel.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein said composite signal channel connector is connected to said T-connector via a cable.

5. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said system comprises at least two common composite signal channels.

6. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein each satellite unit comprises at least two microphone inputs, which are connected to a respective common composite signal channel.

7. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein each satellite unit comprises panning control means for controlling the panning of the microphones.

8. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each satellite unit comprises level control means for controlling the level of the signal from the microphone input.

9. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said level control means comprises an attenuation control.

10. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said level control means comprises a gain control.

11. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said summing means comprise a superposition circuit, arranged to superpose the microphone signal onto the composite signal.

12. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said summing means comprise a summing circuit.

13. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said summing circuit is an analog summing circuit.

14. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said summing circuit is a digital adding circuit.

15. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said converting means comprise an amplifier circuit.

16. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said converting means comprise a transformer.

17. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said converting means comprise an electronic balancing circuit.

18. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said master signal is an audio signal adapted for standard mixing console inputs.

19. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the receiving unit is a mixing console.

20. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein first and second master signals are supplied from the master unit to the receiving unit mixing console via first and second connectors and wherein the receiving unit mixing console, via at least one of said first and second connectors, supply operating power to at least the master unit.

21. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 20, wherein said first connector is arranged to receive operating power, which is supplied to at least the master unit and said second connector is arranged to receive operating power, which is supplied to the satellite units as microphone operating power.

22. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said microphone operating power is one of a bias voltage and a phantom power.

23. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said master unit and said satellite units each is contained in a separate housing, and wherein said master unit and satellite units are interconnected by cables.

24. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said satellite units are arranged near a respective microphone, and said master unit is arranged near said satellite unit.

25. (Currently Amended) A master unit for use in the system of claim 1, said master unit comprising:

a composite signal input connector for receiving a composite signal from a plurality of satellite units;

signal converting means for converting the composite signal into a master signal, and

a master signal output connector for providing said master signal to a receiving unit, such as a mixing console.

26. (Original) The master unit as claimed in claim 25, wherein said master signal output connector comprises first and second connectors, wherein said first connector is arranged to provide a first signal channel to the receiving unit and to receive operating power for at least the master unit, and wherein said second connector is arranged to provide a second signal channel to the receiving unit and to receive operating power for the satellite units.

27. (Original) A satellite unit for use in the system of claim 1, said satellite unit comprising:

a composite signal channel connector for receiving a composite signal;

a microphone input connector for receiving a microphone signal, and

summing means for summing said composite signal and said microphone signal.

28. (Original) The satellite unit as claimed in claim 27, wherein said composite signal channel connector is adapted for receiving microphone operating power.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving audio signals from a plurality of microphones and transferring said audio signals via a common signal channel to a receiving unit; ~~such as a mixing console~~, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of microphone signals at a plurality of satellite units, which are connected to a signal channel,

adding said plurality of microphone signals to form a composite signal in said signal channel,

receiving said composite signal in a master unit,

converting said composite signal into a master signal, and

providing said master signal to said receiving unit.

30. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein microphone signals are added to the signal channel in the satellite units and conveyed to a master unit for conversion into a master signal.